

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006.

PATENT
450100-03064

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 13 are independent.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,760,915 to deCarmo (hereinafter, merely "deCarmo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,456 to Florin et al. (hereinafter, merely "Florin").

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over deCarmo in view of Florin and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,388 to Lewis et al. (hereinafter "Lewis").

Claims 8-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lewis in view of Florin.

Claims 12 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lewis in view of Florin and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,329 to Mages et al. (hereinafter, merely "Mages").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An information playback apparatus...

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006

PATENT
450100-03064

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said identification information, input by a user, used for identification of a recording medium and a value of said identification information recorded on a recording medium loaded in said information playback apparatus,

wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over the original values of the identification information in the storage control step, and

wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, new identification information is written over an oldest identification information or the new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, deCarmo relates to a method and system for preventing viewing of objectionable content found with one or more digital multimedia input streams. A universal rating manager analyzes an incoming digital data signal to determine if the content rating of the signal is acceptable for decoding. The ratings manager analyzes multiple rating levels that have been implemented by the user. If they are enabled, the ratings manager finds a compatible rating level. If they are not enabled, access is not granted for decoding of the video stream and the ratings manager returns the signal identifying reasons for denial of access.

As understood by Applicants, Florin relates to a system for selectively viewing and interacting with programs and services from a number of program/service sources and offerings. A user is able to view a pix display by category, in which they can further add or delete programs in the pix display by using a mark button.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of deCarmo and Florin does not teach the above-recited features of independent claim 1. Specifically, the Office Action concedes that “However, deCarmo does not disclose ‘wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over the original values of the identification information in

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006

PATENT
450100-03064

the storage control step, and wherein, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, new identification information is written over an oldest identification information or the new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information”.

(See Office Action page 4) Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that Florin provides the disclosure missing from deCarmo.

The Office Action cites Column 21, lines 1-15 of Florin, which recites “...user is able to view the pix display by category... only marked programs would be displayed on the pix display 381, allowing users to easily add or delete programs in the pix display...”

Applicants submit that deCarmo and Florin, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an information playback apparatus wherein the increased values of the identification information are written over the original values of the identification information in the storage control step, and, if a maximum of identification information is achieved, new identification information is written over an oldest identification information or the new identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable identification information, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 4, 5 and 6 are also believed to be patentable.

Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*:

“A method for controlling playback...

wherein said user is able to increase a value of said permission condition associated with said playback device and a value of said recording medium identification for each of said one or more recording media,

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006

PATENT
450100-03064

wherein the increased value of said permission condition is written over the original value of the permission condition in storage, and

wherein, if a maximum of the recording medium identification information is achieved, new recording medium identification information is written over an oldest recording medium identification information or the new recording medium identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable recording medium identification information.”
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Lewis relates to a user interface for a digital video apparatus capable of restricting playback of stored video and audio information in response to program related information such as parental control ratings included with the video and audio information. A program chain provides particular playback sequences where multiple parental blocks are created to generate sequences corresponding to different parental control ratings. Different versions of video are provided corresponding to different parental control ratings in order to seamlessly branch between various scenes to provide multiple playback sequences.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Lewis and Florin does not teach the above-recited features of independent claim 8. Specifically, the Office Action concedes that “However, Lewis does not disclose ‘wherein the increased value of said permission condition is written over the original value of the permission condition in storage, and wherein, if a maximum of the recording medium identification information is achieved, new recording medium identification information is written over an oldest recording medium identification information or the new recording medium identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable recording medium identification information’”. (See Office Action page 6) Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that Florin provides the disclosure missing from Lewis.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006

PATENT
450100-03064

The Office Action cites Column 21, lines 1-15 of Florin, which recites "...user is able to view the pix display by category... only marked programs would be displayed on the pix display 381, allowing users to easily add or delete programs in the pix display..."

Applicants submit that Lewis and Florin, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 8. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of a method for controlling playback wherein the increased value of said permission condition is written over the original value of the permission condition in storage, and wherein, if a maximum of the recording medium identification information is achieved, new recording medium identification information is written over an oldest recording medium identification information or the new recording medium identification information is written over a user-selected replaceable recording medium identification information, as recited in claim 8.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that independent claim 8 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 8, independent claim 13 is also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 13 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/808,492
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006

PATENT
450100-03064

CONCLUSION

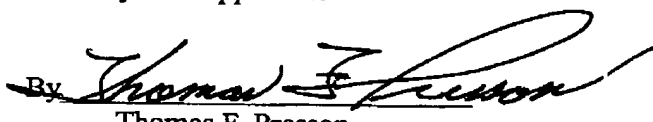
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800